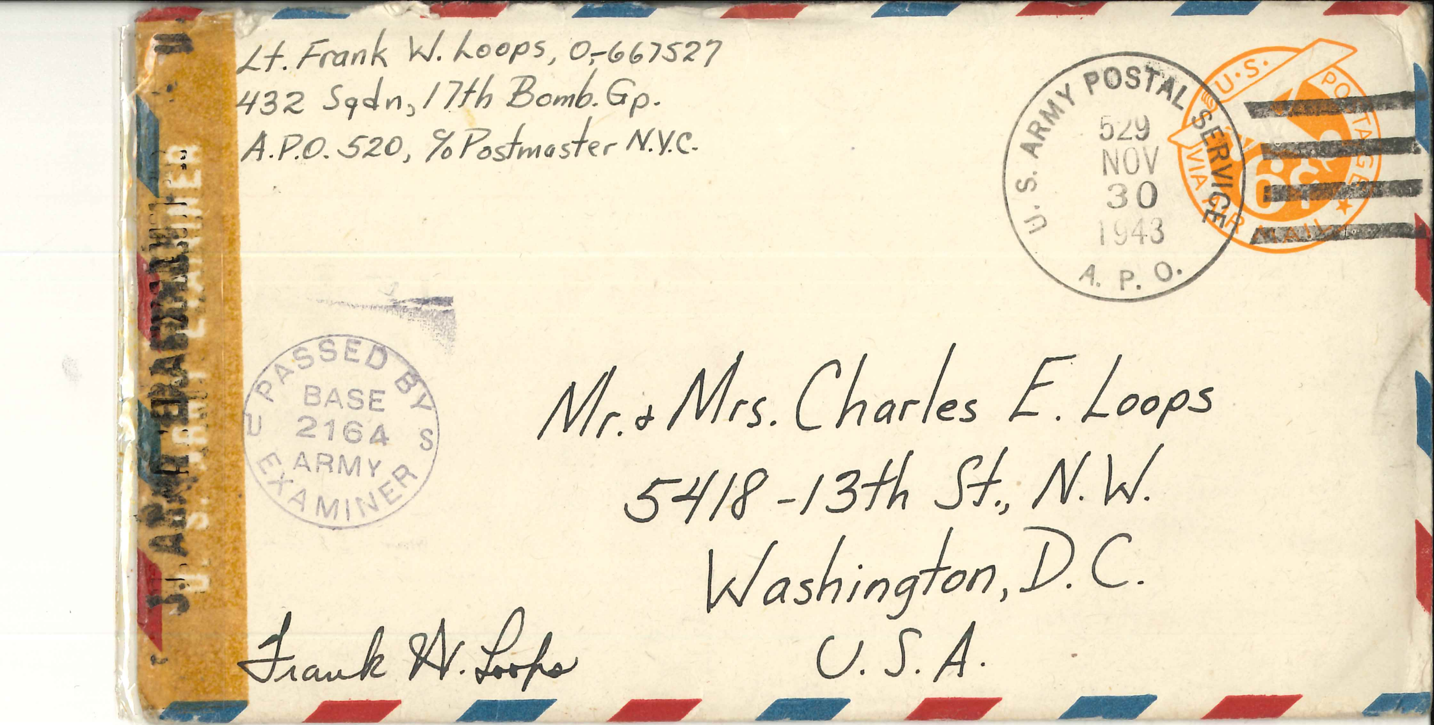

Lt. Frank W. Loops, O-667527
432 Sqdn, 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.Y.C.
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U.S. POSTAGE
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EXAMINER
U. S. ARMY EXAMINER
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Loops
5418 - 13th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.
U.S.A.
Frank W. Loops

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.Y.C.
November 29, 1943

Hello!

Well, - Here I am again - on Monday, so am already a day late on my regular letter that hasn't kept ~~to~~ schedule now for several weeks. Well, - to heck with the schedule. If there was something to really write about it wouldn't need a schedule anyhow - so I'll just pretend there's something, afterall, and ignore it all.

Didn't dawn on me yesterday that it was Sunday. - Not until last night at least. Guess it was 'cause it was another work day. And it's no doubt about that for I was up at dawn and we just managed to beat the darkness when we landed! - There wasn't a bit of trouble sleeping last night, believe me!

Then when I did get home - I had quite a surprise. There were quite a few letters waiting! The first mail we have gotten in almost a week, so you can see how it was appreciated. - And among them was a letter from Ma - of all people. ~~#~~ Written day before Fred's birthday. - I don't know about the one you claim I didn't get. I usually mention them I think, so you would know

More about that than I.

Thanksgiving Day was quite a nice day for us over here - and for me, particularly. First off, the mission for the day was called off because of weather, making it a true holiday with no work. Then, instead of "C" rations of hash + beans - we had real, honest to goodness, turkey and all that goes with it. It seems that some one in the Q.M. was far sighted enough so that they were shipped over here in time. Golly, you couldn't blast people away from camp that day, for fear they wouldn't make it back in time for the supper meal! - That afternoon, tho, Al Brenner, Ed Kummer, and I did go out for awhile. We borrowed a truck and rode over the adjacent country taking pictures of wrecked tanks, etc. -

And then, as if that wasn't enough - I got a package (xmas) from Brother Melba + Janet which contained a nice big fruitcake. Well - fruit cake was all we lacked at the meal - so as the package came shortly after when our mail plane got in - we had a perfect day of it! Lots of the fellows joined me in the cake, but tho I lost a couple of fingers, I managed to protect and preserve about a third of it for a later date. It sure did take a beating tho, but did it hit the

spot! Yowsir!

Pardon the interruption.- Old "Salutte" just came by and I had to talk to him awhile. He is an Italian who lives near by and who has been solicting laundry all summer long.- Lately he has been peddling eggs, but regardless,- he always comes by our tent for a few words.- That's how he really got his name.- When he enters he says, "Salud te" to each one of us and shakes our hand.- We answer "Saludte".- Often he's only here for a couple of minutes and then it's the same routine when he leaves. Naturally that necessitates quite a few "Saludte's" so when ever we see him coming - thats who we say; "Salut te" is coming." Naturally from my Spanish I know its a greeting meaning "Health be with you", or something,- but the others don't, so just say it like he does, without any hesitation.- He is quite a character tho.- He's too smart to sell his eggs for money. He says money means nothing to him, meaning there's nothing to buy with it, ~~He~~ makes us trade him cigarettes or something he wants! Today he tried to get my blanket but I told him I had had to bring that all the way from America and couldn't possibly get another one over here!- That satisfys him. Anything he knows we can't get another of, he doesn't want. He's too

funny. Sometimes he brings one or two of his kids and makes them go thru with his "salud to" routine too. - The other day, a nephew! - We usually give the kids a stick of gum or something so that probably explains that much.

Got a letter from Paul Hughes yesterday, too. He is on detached service in Colorado instructing B-24 pilots in B-26's. Will only be there a short time and then doesn't know what. He spoke of his visit with you and said as soon as he could get back to see you, he would. Said if he hadn't been on his way home the last time, he would have stayed his whole time there!

Say, Sister, got a letter from Ann Leggett the other day. - It has been following me all over the place and finally caught up to me. I wrote back and told her to go see you all if she could. She graduated in Boston last June and is teaching a kindergarden in Washington. That's my luck, isn't it.

Can add another country to my list now. First Africa, the Islands, Italy and now La Belle France! - It all has it's own characteristics and it's always nice to say, "well, I've been there". - Wish it could be on a different kind of a trip tho that I see these places.

Glad you got to see Bill Wetzel. It sure must be nice to him to be home. - Guess he will be leaving again one of these days for other places, but at least he's home now and that's what counts. I ~~figger~~ figure I ought to be finished up here in another 5 months, with luck, and then I will be cutting capers of my own. Be sure & tell him hello for me.

What do you think of the Arabic stuff you got? I was surprised that you received it all so quickly. - Guess these "previous" Christmas packages work both ways, don't they. Didn't I send a list of the articles and who I bought what for? - I was under the impression I did, - but it really makes no difference. - Just sort them out for yourselves - there ought to be enough to go around.

What do you know! The papers for my first Lieut. has finally been submitted to the channels. As soon as they go up to the proper authorities and are approved, and make their way back to me, I'll be one. At that, tho, it will take weeks I suppose. Oh well, at least I will have climbed one more ~~=~~ rung.

And that gives me the opportunity to ask you to send me a couple of sets of silver bars

when you have a package coming this way.- Insignias are practically impossible to get over here.- Thanks.-

It's bedtime now so I'm going to sign off. 'Bye now and be good.

Love,
Frank